

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

An Improved Clothes Peg or the like.

We, BLACKFRIARS RUBBER COMPANY LIMITED, a British Company, of 79, Piccadilly, Manchester 2, and JOHN MURPHY, a British subject of the said Company's address, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

Clothes pegs and similar clips, of a resilient material such as rubber, are known, and a clothes peg has been proposed having a bifurcated portion at one end to fit over a clothes line, with projecting ears at the upper end whereby, upon those ears being pressed together between the user's finger and thumb, the bifurcated jaws separate to allow the more easy removal and replacement of the clip from and on to the clothes line, etc.

The clips already known however are not readily pulled away from the clothes line when gripped on their side faces, in view of the relatively substantial, V-shaped gap in the top edge of the clip, between the said ears, and this invention has for its object to provide improved forms of resilient clothes peg or like clip (hereinafter referred to as peg) from which the said disadvantage is absent.

According to this invention the upper part of the resilient peg has a cross member higher at the centre than at the ends and confining an opening the adjacent edge of which is parallel with the outer edge of the cross bar, whereby, upon such cross member being pulled in the line of the axis of the peg, the parts disposed at the ends of the said opening tend to come together and to separate the bifurcated jaws. Preferably the said opening is of a diamond shape, the outer profile of the cross bar then being a flat inverted V, but it may be of other shapes. An oval opening with a domed or arcuate profile for the outside of the cross bar could conveniently be adopted.

The said opening and the outwardly directed cross bar, allows of the easy squeezing of the peg transversely, the bridge part then flexing outwardly, but

further, such bridge part provides a convenient finger grip for the sideways gripping of the peg (as distinct from an edge-wise grip) whereby the pegs may be pulled from the clothes line without the sides being squeezed together.

Conveniently the said opening is of a diamond shape and the outer edge at the top of the peg is parallel with the adjacent edge of the opening. Also, those parts which are gripped by the user's finger and thumb when the peg is being squeezed to the open position, are ribbed or similarly roughened to increased the user's grip.

In one example of the invention the peg comprises a bifurcated lower portion having a central opening with a tapering slot running into it, a diamond-shaped opening in the upper part with the major axis horizontal, and the bridge part at the top of the peg being of a flat inverted V-form. The sides of the tapering slot may be plain or ribbed, and in the latter case the ribs on the opposite faces may mate one into the other.

A plurality of such pegs (say twelve) may be integrally moulded in face-to-face relationship with juxtaposed pegs connected only by a small web of the resilient material, preferably at their upper ends, so that they may readily be separated when required for use.

Alternatively, the individual pegs may be broken from an extruded length of rubber or the like whose cross-section corresponds to the shape of a peg in face view and which, after extrusion, is cut transversely of its length at spaced positions so as to leave each peg united to the next as above described. At suitable intervals (say, at every twelfth division) the extruded material is cut completely through.

The aforesaid methods of manufacture greatly facilitate the packing of the pegs, since they may be sold in blocks of any desired number, the partially divided mouldings or extruded lengths being pro-

vided with transparent or other wrappers which may be attractively printed.

Dated this 27th day of July, 1948.
For the Applicants.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

An Improved Clothes Peg or the like.

We, BLACKFRIARS RUBBER COMPANY LIMITED, a British Company, of 79, Piccadilly, Manchester 2, and JOHN MURPHY, a British subject of the said Company's address, do hereby declare the nature of this invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to clothes pegs and similar articles of the type having a bifurcated body of rubber or other elastic material whose limbs are adapted to grip between them a clothes-line or its equivalent.

In this connection it is known to provide divergent ears at the end of the peg remote from the bifurcation, the pressing together of such ears between fingers and thumb causing the jaws of the bifurcated portion to separate and thereby facilitate the application of the peg to, or its removal from, the clothes-line or its equivalent.

It is more natural, however, for the user of a clothes peg to grip its side faces preparatory to pulling it away from the clothes-line, and with the known form of rubber peg aforesaid this method of removal is hampered by the relatively large 'V' shaped gap between the ears.

The object of the present invention is to provide an improved construction of elastic clothes peg or like article in which the above mentioned disadvantage is absent.

According to this invention, in a peg of the type aforesaid having divergent portions extending away from the bifurcation of the elastic body, the outer ends of such portions are connected by an integral cross-bar adapted to deform outwardly in the event of the lateral edges of the divergent portions being pressed together and also adapted to draw such portions inwards when gripped at its side faces and pulled longitudinally of the peg.

Preferably the cross-bar aforesaid is of substantially constant width throughout its length, and it may have a shallow arch or inverted "V" profile, assuming that the peg be held with its bifurcated end downwards.

The opening defined by the divergent portions of the peg body and their connecting bar may be shaped as an oval or diamond with its major dimension transverse to the plane of bifurcation of the peg.

The provision of this opening and the

outwardly convex cross-bar allow of the peg being readily compressed when gripped at its lateral edges, and furthermore when the side faces of the cross-bar are gripped and a longitudinal pull applied to the peg, the divergent portions of the body are automatically drawn together with consequential separation of the jaws.

The improved peg has the additional advantage that, when it is in use, the cross-bar acts as a strut between the divergent body portions and tends to resist outward movement of the jaws.

In the accompanying drawings:

Fig. 1 is a front view of one form of the improved clothes peg.

Fig. 2 is a sectional side elevation, and

Fig. 3 is a view corresponding to Fig. 1 showing the peg laterally compressed for application to a clothes line.

In the example illustrated, the body A of the peg is bifurcated for about one half of its height and the outer edges of its jaws B may be downwardly convergent when in the unstressed condition.

The inner faces of the two jaws B may be in contact with one another when the peg is unstressed, but preferably they are spaced apart as shown, their upper parts being parallel and their lower parts mutually divergent with reference to a circular hole C at the top of the bifurcation.

This hole C is made of such a size that its sides will exert an effective grip when the peg is engaged with a clothes-line of approximately 1/4 inch diameter. When the peg is in use, the periphery of the line will, of course, be overlaid by a substantial thickness of fabric, so that the grip exerted is correspondingly increased.

Pronounced corners may be formed at the junctions of the inner faces of the limbs B with the periphery of the hole C, which corners embed themselves in the material gripped by the peg whilst having no tendency to damage such material during application or removal of the peg.

The lateral edges of the body A have an outward curvature which may be substantially concentric with the hole C and above this central enlargement the body has an integral head or handle portion D in which is a diamond-shaped hole E having its major dimension at right angles to the longitudinal axis of the peg.

This hole E is defined in part by two upwardly divergent portions F of the body A

and in part by a cross member G which joins the upper ends of the portions F and is shaped as a wide-angle inverted "V".

The two limbs of the "V" shaped cross-bar G are preferably of uniform width, the lateral edges of the head D converging upwardly towards the adjacent lower edges of the hole E and being serrated or roughened, as at H, to provide a grip.

10 In the application of the peg to a clothes-line I, these serrated edges H are gripped between finger and thumb to effect a lateral compression of the head D, such compression being greatly facilitated by 15 the presence of the hole E and causing the limbs B to separate as shown in Fig. 3. Owing to its shape, the cross-bar G in no way hampers this lateral deformation of the head D.

20 On release, the peg tends to resume its original shape, and the cross-bar G exerts an outward thrust against the portions F aforesaid, thereby acting as a strut to maintain the jaws B in engagement with 25 the line I or the clothes applied to the latter.

When pulling the peg away from the clothes-line I, there is no need to grip the serrated edges H as aforesaid, since the 30 cross-bar G offers a convenient finger grip for applying a longitudinal pull to the peg. If such a pull be applied whilst the side faces of the cross-bar are gripped between finger and thumb, the bar will deform upwardly towards the position shown in Fig. 3 thus drawing the portions F towards one another and opening the jaws B sufficiently to ensure their ready disengagement from the clothes-line I.

40 It will be understood that the construction illustrated is capable of modification in various respects. For example, the hole E may be oval or elliptical instead of diamond shape, the outer profile of the cross-bar G being arcuate in such a case. 45 Furthermore the narrower part of the tapering slot between the limbs B may have its faces transversely ribbed, and the ribs on opposite faces may mate one into the other.

50 A plurality of such pegs (say twelve) may be integrally moulded in face-to-face relationship with juxtaposed pegs connected only by a small web of the elastic material, preferably at their upper ends, 55 so that they may readily be separated when required for use.

Alternatively, the individual pegs may be broken from an extruded length of rubber or the like whose cross-section 60 corresponds to the shape of a peg in face view and which, after extrusion, is cut

transversely of its length at spaced positions so as to leave each peg united to the next as above described. At suitable intervals (say, at every twelfth division) the 65 extruded material is cut completely through.

The aforesaid methods of manufacture greatly facilitate the packing of the pegs, since they may be sold in blocks of any 70 desired number, the partially divided mouldings or extruded lengths being provided with transparent or other wrappers which may be attractively printed.

Having now particularly described and 75 ascertained the nature of our said invention and in what manner the same is to be performed, we declare that what we claim is:—

1. A clothes peg or the like of the type 80 referred to, characterised by divergent portions extending away from the bifurcation of the elastic body, the outer ends of such portions being connected by an integral cross-bar adapted to deform outwardly in 85 the event of the lateral edges of the divergent portions being pressed together and also adapted to draw such portions inwards when gripped at its side faces and pulled longitudinally of the peg.

2. A clothes peg or the like according to 90 Claim 1, further characterised that the cross-bar is of constant width throughout its length.

3. A clothes peg or the like according to 95 Claim 1 or Claim 2, further characterised in that the cross-bar has a shallow arch or inverted "V" profile, assuming the peg to be held with its bifurcated end downwards.

4. A clothes peg or the like according to 100 any of the preceding Claims, further characterised in that the opening defined by the divergent portions of the peg body and their connecting bar is shaped as an oval or diamond with its major dimension 105 transverse to the plane of bifurcation of the peg.

5. A clothes peg or the like according to any of the preceding Claims, further characterised in that the outer edges of the 110 divergent portions aforesaid are serrated or roughened.

6. A clothes peg or the like according to Claim 1, substantially as described with reference to and as shown in the accompany- 115 ing drawings.

Dated this 19th day of July, 1949.

For the Applicants.

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[This Drawing is a reproduction of the Original on a reduced scale.]

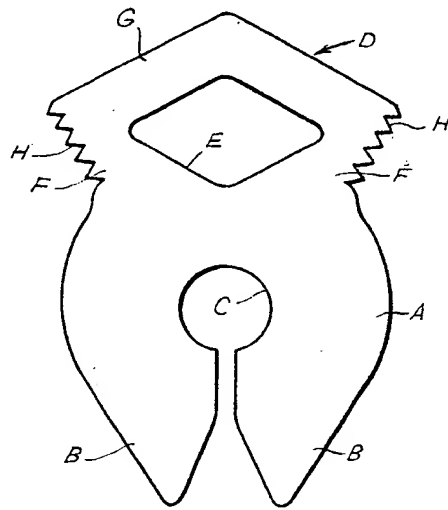


FIG. 1

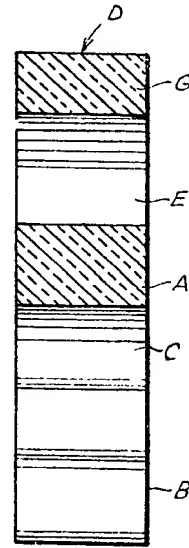


FIG. 2

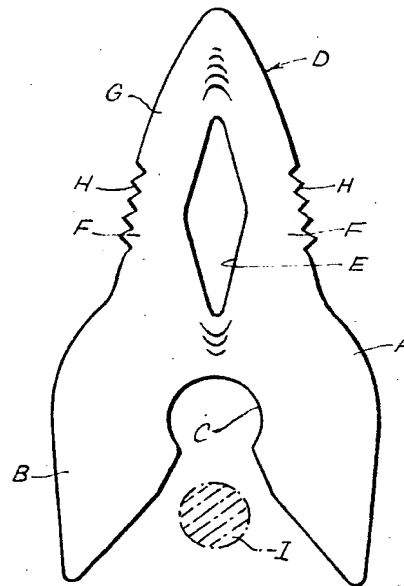


FIG. 3